

INTEGRATING FAMILY SERVICES

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. **Promote the well-being of Vermont's children, youth and families.** Policies, services and service providers are sensitive and responsive to the unique aspects of each family.
2. **Build communities' capacity to provide a full range of resources in a flexible and timely way that is responsive to the needs of children and youth (prenatal through age 22) and families.**
3. **Focus on the individual and the family.** Understand the child's needs in the context of his/her family.
4. **Ensure that youth and families' voices inform processes, plans and policies.**
5. **Adopt the Strengthening Families approach.** Strengthening Families' five protective factors guide our work.ⁱ
6. **Invest in a skilled, competent and valued workforce.** People working with children, youth and families need training, support and adequate compensation.
7. **Balance innovation with families' experiences, research and data to inform decisions about how to best use available resources and achieve positive outcomes.**
8. **Assure continuous quality improvement.** Data informs decisions and drives change at the state and local level.
9. **Promote a common language, shared decision-making and cross-disciplinary team work.**

ⁱ "Strengthening Families™ is a research-informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. It is based on engaging families, programs and communities in building five protective factors:

- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Knowledge of parenting and child development
- Concrete support in times of need
- Social and emotional competence of children."

Source: <http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengtheningfamilies/about>